Government of Yukon

Yukon Government NEWS release

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Yukon Joins Western Provinces and Territories to Recognize FASD Day

WHITEHORSE - Yukon joins an alliance of seven jurisdictions in recognizing today as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) day, Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart announced.

The Canada Northwest FASD Partnership is an alliance of seven jurisdictions, B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Yukon, that works towards the development and promotion of an interprovincial/territorial approach to prevention, intervention, care and support of individuals affected by FASD. In addition, the partnership funds the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network, the only research network working in this area in the northern and western regions of Canada.

"FASD is a very important issue facing not only Yukon but all jurisdictions in Canada and we will continue to work together on research as well as other FASD-related initiatives," said Hart. "We have come a long way on this issue and we will continue to move forward."

Yukon has a number of FASD initiatives, including two diagnostic teams, adult diagnosis performed in conjunction with the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society of Yukon (FASSY), and education and awareness campaigns.

The Yukon government is also providing $469,000 in funding to FASSY on initiatives involving high-risk women with FASD, and prevention and diagnostic services.

In addition, the Department of Health and Social Services funds housing for individuals with FASD through the NGO Options for Independence program.

"We will continue to lead the way in this area and stand proud about the work that we have done and continue to do," Hart added.

This year, FASSY is hosting an open house and barbeque to mark the FASD day. The organization is also encouraging the public to join them in a new campaign where people will refrain from alcohol for nine months beginning September 9 and ending Mother's Day.

The Yukon government is also hosting an FASD conference from September 17 to 19 in conjunction with the Government of Canada.

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